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The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Notice, Sir; I think it will be about five lakhs."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" May I know whether there is any report to show as to the time that will be taken to clear off the debt?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" There is no report."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" May I know whether Government have any idea as to when the estate will be handed over to the zamindar?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member is commenting upon his question."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I want to know when the debt will be discharged so that the estate may be handed over to the zamindar."

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" It depends upon the state of the agricultural season. If the season is good the debts will be discharged soon; but if there is a bad season, as in the past years, it will take a long time to clear off the debt. (Laughter.)"

Mr. L. K. TULASIRAM :—" Has not one Mr. Maduramuthu Thevar claimed the estate on account of this infirmity?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—The question does not arise."

Irrigation

Supply of water in the Owk tank in Kurnool district.

* 1559 Q.—Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state, in view of the answers given to question No. 899 on 29th November 1928,—

(a) whether the report called for has been received; and

(b) if it has been received, what it is?

A.—(a) & (b) A report from the Subdivisional Officer, Public Works Department, has been received and has been referred to the Board of Revenue for remarks as it appears that the distribution of water from the tank is not in charge of the Public Works Department.

Progress of the Mettur Project.

* 1560 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased—

(i) to place before the House a statement showing

(a) the receipts and expenditure with plans and estimates as revised most recently in connexion with the Mettur Irrigation Project;

(b) the various points in regard to which the expenditure has exceeded or is likely to exceed the original or later revised estimates;

(c) the changes in the original and revised programme required; and

(d) the details of the machinery and plant ordered, with the names of the firms from which they were ordered; and

(ii) to state—

(*a*) what steps were taken to advertise the requirements in Germany, United States of America and other manufacturing countries to secure the best and cheapest machinery and plant;

(*b*) which firms made tenders, which were accepted and for what reasons;

(*c*) the names of Engineers and other officers employed in the works or in connexion with the works who were formerly employees in any firms from which tenders have been received and accepted or from which machinery and plant have been ordered; and

(*d*) the reasons for employing such persons?

A.—(i) (*a*) & (*b*) The revised estimate for the project which was furnished to all M.L. Cs. in May last gives the information as regards expenditure. As regards receipts, the revised estimate supplied to the M.L.Cs. took into account a net revenue of 54·61 lakhs while that submitted to the Government of India in July last shows a net revenue of 55·54 lakhs. This latter estimate was received from the Board of Revenue in June 1928. As regards expenditure comparative statements 1 and 2 annexed to the revised estimate contain the information. It has since been brought to notice that cost of the special tools and plant is likely to exceed the estimated figure of Rs. 66·75 lakhs by Rs. 9 lakhs, but that the excess will be met from anticipated savings under other items.

(*c*) The programme of expenditure is given in Part I of the Forecast of financial prospects attached to the revised estimate.

(i) (*d*) & (ii) (*a*) & (*b*) The information is contained in Appendix II to the report of the Mettur Deputation printed with G.O. No. 2616 I., dated 19th October 1928 a copy of which was furnished to each M.L.C.

(ii) (*c*) & (*d*) The information required is furnished below:—

(1) Mr. J. C. Dalton, Workshops Superintendent, previously employed by Massey & Co. and by firms in Australia and elsewhere; has a wide experience of the erection of buildings and machinery and heavy engineering works in Africa, Australia and India; also versed in general mechanical engineering work.

(2) Mr. W. Smith, Superintendent, Dragline excavators, Canal system, previously employed by Messrs. Ruston & Hornsby; has a good practical knowledge of Hornsby engines and possesses special experience of maintenance and repair of heavy motors and excavators.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"With reference to clause (i) (*d*), may I know whether, apart from the machinery mentioned in the report, any other machinery has been ordered for; and if so, what machinery has been ordered for? Sir, I know that the Government Order was passed on the report of the Mettur Deputation. . ."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member need not comment upon his question."

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The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" From the answer given it will be seen that no order has been sent."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" The answer given here does not show what took place after May last."

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I answered the question from the information available ; but now as it is said that there has been some subsequent order I shall look into the matter."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I will request the hon. Minister to get all the detailed information available up to date on the whole question."

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I have stated what I shall do, but with reference to the representation made now I can only say that the answer on the paper contains such information as is available."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" With regard to (ii) (*c*), may I know whether Mr. Roberts is not one of those taken from a firm which supplies materials to the Government ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Certainly not, Mr. Roberts is a Government servant of many years' standing."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Before he entered Government service, was he not employed in a firm supplying machinery to Government ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" If it be the case, that must refer to a matter that happened twenty years ago. Mr. Roberts entered Government service in 1907."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" With reference to clauses (*c*) and (*d*), what are the extraordinary reasons for appointing these men ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" The reasons are given in the statement of their qualifications."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Is it suggested that no other men with these qualifications can be obtained ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" No, Sir, if they were available they would have been entertained."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Does it not strike Government that the leanings of persons who had served in firms supplying machinery to Government will be towards their old masters ?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Knowledge and skill are the prime factors that are taken into consideration in appointing these men."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" This is a cheap answer, Sir. May I know whether that skill and knowledge are not possessed by officers belonging to other firms ? That is, I want to know what is the special nature of the qualifications of these men."

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" As to that, these persons had been engaged in these works before and so they would be able to carry out the work more successfully than the other mechanical engineers."

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Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know whether Government made any attempt to secure any other qualified men? And if they tried and failed may I know where they tried?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" We did not try; when there are men available there is no necessity for getting other men."

Land Revenue

Enhancement of tax on trees in darkhast lands in Anchetti village.

* 1561 *Q.*—Rao Bahadur S. ELLAPPA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the special rate of Rs. 5 per acre for trees on darkhast lands in Anchetti village of Hosur taluk, Salem district, has been raised to Rs. 7-8-0;

(*b*) if so, the reasons for enhancing the rates;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that acreage rate of Rs. 5 is still in force in the neighbouring villages of Thaggatti, Urigam, Kottaiyur, Madakkal, Doddamanchi and Natrapalaiyam though these villages are situated in the same locality as Anchetti and are economically as good as the excepted villages;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that seigniorage rates are being levied on trees standing on darkhast lands in the above village against precedent, and if so, why;

(*e*) whether the Government have received any mahazars from the ryots of the Anchetti village protesting against the raising of the acreage rates and the levying of the seigniorage fees on trees standing on darkhast lands; and

(*f*) if so, what action the Government have taken in the matter?

A.—(*a*) *to* (*d*) The Government are not aware that the facts are as suggested. A report has been called for.

(*e*) & (*f*) The Government have not received any memorials on the subject.

Minor Irrigation

Expenditure on minor irrigation in the Ceded districts.

* 1562 *Q.*—Mr. C. OBI REDDI : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state with reference to minor irrigation—

(*a*) the amount of money that was allotted for each of the districts of Anantapur, Bellary, Cuddapah and Kurnool during each of the years 1925-26, 1926-27, 1927-28 and 1928-29;

(*b*) the amount of money that was spent out of those allotments;

(*c*) what are the reasons for the unexpended balances, if any, out of those allotments, in each district; and

(*d*) what is the amount of money that has been allotted for 1929-30, for each of the above districts under that head?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) A statement[a] giving the information required is attached.

(*c*) The unexpended balance under Anantapur for 1927-28 was due to the failure of the district officers to notice in time that

[a] Printed as Appendix V on page 271 infra.